



Garda Reserve

An Overview of Ireland's Volunteer Police Service

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Background



- The Garda Reserve was introduced in 2006 to assist An Garda Síochána in increasing visible uniform police presence in the community – helping to prevent crimes and to provide greater reassurance to the community.

“To provide an efficient response and a quality service at all times and to enhance partnership between An Garda Síochána and the local community”.

History and Origins



Introduced in 2006 under the Garda Síochána Act, 2005 to:

- Increase visible uniform police presence
- Build and enhance ties to local communities
- Support full-time members in providing a quality policing service
- Hold the rank of Reserve Garda



Training



- Entry Requirements
 - Mirrored educational standards as Garda Trainees
 - Mirrored medical process as Garda Trainees
 - No PCT
- Vetting
 - Same standards as Garda Trainee recruits with regards to security and character
- Allocation of Station;
 - Not to be deployed to carry out duty in their own immediate neighbourhoods
- Only patrol in the presence and under the supervision of a full-time member
- No powers when not on duty
- Not drive official vehicles or carry firearms
- They are be subject to full disciplinary codes
- Continuous Professional Development delivered through local CPD schools,

Role & Deployment



1. Assigned to Community Policing/Regular Unit
2. Station Duties with the exception of prisoner management
3. Court
4. Events



Operation and Role – Rostering and Performance Monitoring



- Reserves operate on a 3-monthly roster
- Reserves must perform a minimum of 60 hours annually.
- Annual Allowance of €1000
- In 2023 Reserve Gardaí collectively performed a total of 23,309 hours.
- Currently 333 Reserve Gardaí nationally



Garda Reserve Strategy 2021 - 2025



- Recruitment
- Training & Development
- Role & Deployment
- Oversight & Governance
- Valuing our people
- Evaluation

What does the future hold..



- Independent Patrolling
- Expansion of Powers conferred by the Commissioner
 - e.g. Traffic
- Utilising specialist skillset within Garda Reserve
 - Cyber-crime, Economic-crime, or similar specialised sections
- Recognition Programme



Thank You